

COURSE SYLLABUS

ARH 139: Introduction to Topics in Global Art - online asynchronous; 4-week summer session class; 3 credits

Instructor Information: Sharon Jordan, Associate Professor, Art History Program, Art Dept.
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Course Description: In this online asynchronous course, *Introduction to Topics in Global Art*, students will study the complicated issue of repatriation or the return of purchased, stolen or looted artworks and objects from one country to another. We will examine and analyze two prominent case studies: In week's 1 and 2, we will examine Greece's claims for the return of the Elgin Marbles from England's British Museum. At the beginning of the 19th Century, Britain's Lord Elgin purchased the sculptures from the Ottoman occupiers of Greece. The sculptures making up the Elgin Marbles originally adorned the building, the Parthenon, the center of Athen's Acropolis. They are considered among the most important examples of Classical Greek art and have been influential on the development of Western culture.

In week's 3 and 4, we will examine the case of the return to Nigeria of the Benin Bronzes that were looted and dispersed to various world museum's resulting from the colonialization of Africa at the end of the 19th Century. Readings and essays will analyze each side of the repatriation issues surrounding these objects. The importance of these two country's cultural outputs will be contextualized through art historical and historical materials and assignments to understand the complexity of the current calls for repatriation.

Learning Objectives: In ARH 139, students will:

- Develop visual literacy skills by analyzing and examining works of art within their cultural contexts
- Interpret and assess information from a variety of journalistic, governmental and cultural and museum sources
- Evaluate evidence and arguments critically from different national and cultural points of view
- Produce well-reasoned written arguments and counter-arguments using evidence and source materials to support conclusions
- Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of art history and cultural studies, including formal analysis and contextual analysis, for various world regions and cultures
- Analyze and evaluate the legacy and effects of colonialism and the effects of globalization and global tourism through a study of the issue of repatriation of artworks and cultural objects from differing points of view
- Analyze the historical developments of Classical European, Byzantine and African culture as individually impacted by war, religious developments including the spread of Christianity and Islam, colonialism, and global trade
- Analyze how the issue of repatriation of cultural objects has impacted geopolitics and global culture in our contemporary world

Course Structure:

This is a no-textbook cost (OER) course. Students will access all course materials in the content tab on the class Brightspace page that corresponds to the calendar in the syllabus breakdown below. ARH 139 fulfills the Gen Ed 'World Cultures and Global Issues' category requirement. It also satisfies a 100-level art history requirement for all B.A. & B.F.A. majors in studio art in the Art Dept.

This is an active, online 3-credit course that will require the same level of engagement and time commitment as attending an in-person course during a 15-week semester. In the asynchronous format, you will not be online with your classmates or the instructor at the same time. The asynchronous format means that each unit offers you flexibility during the week to complete the weekly course readings and assignments by their deadlines. It is imperative that students stay up-to-date with the course materials and meet every assignment deadline in this condensed 4-week course.

SUMMER 2026 ARH 139 SCHEDULE:

Week 1A: Course Introduction (discussion board post +5 points)

Week 1B: Classical Greek Art Historical Overview (Wiki assignment +10 points)

Week 2A: Assigned Readings for and against the return of the Elgin Marbles (6 individual reading quizzes / 1 per reading +25/30 points)

Week 2B: Written Arguments for or against the return of the Elgin Marbles and Rebuttal or Counter-Arguments (discussion board posts + 15 points)

Week 3A: Overview of African Colonialization and Art History in Africa

Week 3B: Dispersal of the Art from Benin (Wiki assignment +10 points)

Week 4A: Assigned Readings arguing for and against the return of the Benin Bronzes to Nigeria (6 individual reading quizzes / 1 per reading +25/30 points)

Week 4B:: Written Arguments for or against the return of the Benin Bronzes to Nigeria from European museums and Rebuttal or Counter-Arguments (discussion board posts + 15 points)

Optional: Discussion Board Post Arguing Personal Opinions in the case of the Elgin Marbles and/or the Benin Bronzes (+5 points)

Student Assessment:

There will be 6 assignments due during the 4-week course and 2 optional assignments for a total of 110 class points to determine individual course grades. These will either be in a discussion

board post assignment on Brightspace; a collaborative Wiki assignment; or through an online quiz based on the assigned readings. Your course grade is based on these 6-8 assignments. No late assignments will be accepted after their due dates. Missing multiple assignments will likely result in a failing course grade. No grade of incomplete (INC) will be given in this course.

Because we are only communicating through written discussion board posts, not only what you write, but also how you write, is vital to receive the highest possible score on your assignments. It is thus crucial that you use a word processor with a spelling and grammar-check feature, such as Microsoft Word to prepare, edit and review your work before submitting it on Brightspace. It is highly advised that you write out drafts of your posts outside Brightspace to revise, edit and review before submitting them to the discussion board forums. Spelling and grammar should be carefully reviewed by proof-reading before submissions.

As a student in an online course, you are expected to have reliable internet access every day. If you have computer problems, it is your responsibility to address these or to use campus computing labs. Problems with your computer or other technology issues are not an excuse for delays in meeting deadlines for the course. The professor cannot help with technological issues or problems.

Netiquette - When posting in an online course forum, it is important to remember to express your thoughts, opinions and experiences in a professional and respectful manner as to not offend others. Slang, abbreviations or texting-style grammar is not acceptable.

Continued enrollment in this class signifies that you have read, understood, and will abide by the terms set forth in this syllabus. To successfully complete this online course, you must:

- Complete all of the class assignments on time and receive a passing grade of 60 or above on these assignments (Grade Breakdown: 90 or above = grade of A; 80 – 89 = B; 70 – 79 = C; 60 – 69 = D; 59 or less points = failing course grade).
- Prepare all written assignments in your own words without the use of AI to generate written text
- Be able to regularly access a computer and use the internet to complete the readings and assignments that will be posted on Brightspace each week.
- Use and maintain regular access to your Lehman College email address and the course's Brightspace site. All of the course communications will occur on these two platforms.
- Microsoft Word is the recommended word processing program for preparation of any written assignments
- Recommended web browsers include Firefox, Chrome and Safari

Cheating is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise. Examples of cheating include the unauthorized use of an electronic device during a quiz.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own. Examples of plagiarism include copying another person's words or presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source; and internet plagiarism

such as copying and pasting information from the internet without citing the source or without proper attribution; or using generative AI to do your written assignments.

College is the time for you to develop written and verbal communication skills. Writing is a process that takes time and requires effort. Using generative AI to produce your written work is a wasted opportunity and a denial of your responsibilities to learn and develop your writing skills as a student. Use of AI on assignments for this class is prohibited and may result in a grade of 0. If you are unsure about what constitutes academic integrity or plagiarism, ask about it.

The summer session moves extremely quickly. **Be proactive for yourself during the course and throughout your time at Lehman College.** If you are struggling with a personal or academic issue, seek out the campus resources available for help, including:

1. Familiarize yourself with the Lehman College website: <https://www.lehman.edu/>.
2. Information Technology - If you have any questions about your Lehman email address, your password, CUNYFirst, Brightspace or any IT issues, contact the campus computer help desk: 718-960-1111.
3. There are many resources available to students including those listed in the 'Student Life' drop-down menu on the college's homepage. These include health and wellness services, counseling, basic needs, disabilities services and tutoring and academic assistance.
4. Anything related to enrollment and registration, consult the Office of the Registrar webpage: <https://www.lehman.edu/registrar/>
5. The Counseling Center is in the Old Gym Building, Room 114. It is encouraged to visit the counseling center in-person as soon as you feel the need to talk with a counselor. Walk in and make an appointment in-person or ask me to walk you over. Their webpage is: <https://www.lehman.edu/student-affairs/counseling-center/>
6. The Lehman Tutoring Center (For Writing, Humanities, and Social Sciences Tutoring) is in the Old Gym Building, Room 205. Go in-person for further information or consult their webpage; <https://www.lehman.edu/academics/issp/> telephone: (718) 960-8175; or email: issp.program@lehman.cuny.edu
7. Accommodating Disabilities: Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations, students must first be registered with the Office for Student Disability Services in Shuster Hall, Room 238; telephone 718-960-8441.
8. Maintain Academic Integrity in this course and at Lehman College: Academic integrity is a serious part of this course and in the policies of Lehman College. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion. The following definitions are adapted from CUNY policy on academic integrity: